AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, insert the following new paragraph:

--This is a continuation of International Application PCT/EP02/09423 filed on 26 July 2002, which designated the United States of America.--

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, insert the following heading:

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 9, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 18, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 1: A drawing showing SEQ ID NO: 17 and the transcriptional and translational initiation signals identified for the *B. stearothermophilus argC* gene.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Two oligonucleotide primers were used for amplification of the P*argCo* promoter-operator and corresponding to the upstream and downstream extremities of said promoter-operator (5'-CATAGACTTAGGGAGGGGC (SEQ ID NO: 1) and 5'-

ATGATGATGATGATGATGCATATGTTCCCCCTCACCCGTATG) (SEQ ID NO: 2); the latter contains 6 histidine codons to create a N-terminal tag.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Two other oligonucleotides, 5'-CCTCGAAAATTATTAAATATAC (SEQ ID NO: 3) and 5'-ACATTTGATTTTATTTTTATAC (SEQ ID NO: 4), were also used to create upstream shortened fragments of promoter sequence, i.e., a 59-bp and a 39-bp fragment of the P*argCo* promoter-operator DNA (see also the figure 1). A DNA sequence coding for a protein of interest was amplified by PCR and fused to the *B. stearothermophilus* P*argCo* promoter by the overlap extension method (Ho *et al.*, 1989).--

Please replace the table appearing at page 32 with the rewritten table that appears on the accompanying sheet:

Table 2. Oligonucleotide primers used for amplification of putative genes from *T. maritima*.

Oligonucleotide primer	Putative protein*	Oligonucleotide sequence
GntR-0439-His-N-term	GntTm0439	5'-ATGCATCATCATCATCATCATAAAAAAATCGAAGTGGACCTC (SEQ ID NO: 5)
Tm0439-GntR-down	-/-	5'-GAACGAAACACCCTCCGCC (SEQ ID NO: 6)
GntR-0275-His-N-term	GntTm0275	5'-ATGCATCATCATCATCATCATATCGATGAAATAAAATCTGGAAAG (SEQ ID NO: 7)
TM-0275-GntR-down	-/-	5'-CTCGCTGGAGGATCACAC (SEQ ID NO: 8)
Xyl-1224-His-N-term	XylTm1224	5'-ATGCATCATCATCATCATCATCCGAAATCGGTGAGAGCAG (SEQ ID NO: 9)
TM-1224-XylR-down	-/-	5'-CTCCACGTGTAAATGTACAGTG (SEQ ID NO: 10);
LacI-1856-His-N-term	LacTm1856	5'-ATGCATCATCATCATCATCATCCAACAATAGAAGATGTCG (SEQ ID NO: 11)
TM-LacI-1856-down	-/-	5'-GACCACTCGATCTGAACATCC (SEQ ID NO: 12)

* Oligonucleotide primers were designed from *T. maritima* genome sequence (Nelson *et al.*, 1999).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The *E. coli* XA4 *rpoA* gene coding for the α subunit of RNA polymerase was amplified by PCR using oligonucleotide primers 5'-GACACCATGGAGGGTTCTGTGACAGAG (SEQ ID NO: 13) (the *Nco*I site is underlined) and 5'-CCGCTCGAGCTCGTCAGCGATGCTTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14) (the *Xho*I site is underlined).The *E. coli* XA4 *crp* gene coding for cAMP receptor protein (CRP) was amplified using oligonucleotide primers 5'-CATGCCATGGTGCTTGGCAAACC (SEQ ID NO: 15) and 5'-CCGCTCGAGACGAGTGCCGTAAACGAC (SEQ ID NO: 16). The amplified DNAs were cloned into pET21d(+) that allowed expression in frame to a His-tag sequence at the 5'-extremity of corresponding proteins.--